Mountain Weather Forecast

North Grampian

Including North and West Cairngorms National Park, Monadhliath, Ben Alder, Creag Meagaidh, Loch Ericht and Loch Rannoch
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 30 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 29 Dec 2020 at 12:44 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for cold conditions and further snowfall through the period. The main uncertainty relates to the westward extent of more persistent snow during Thursday.

Headline for Wednesday 30 Dec 2020: Some early brightness then snowfall across the west, and later the east. Cold.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 30 Dec 2020

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** Low Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Light snow	Heavy snow	Light snow	Mist
Precipitation probability							
50%	20%	10%	10%	60%	60%	50%	30%

Forecast for Wednesday 30 Dec 2020

Weather: A few lingering snow showers in the north initially before skies clear across most ranges. A cold, frosty and largely clear start will give way to thickening cloud from the north, this bringing spells of mainly light snow across ranges west of the A9 by afternoon. Clearer, drier across the Cairngorms although the odd shower is possible, increasingly so towards midnight.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 70% soon decreasing 30% as cloud descends to 400-600m. Best chance of breaks across the Cairngorms.

Visibility: No issues through morning but deteriorating rapidly in the west as snow and cloud arrive. Risk of whiteout conditions above 600m or so.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Forecast for Wednesday 30 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	21/28 NW	19/25 NW	19/26 NW	18/25 NW	17/23 NW	19/25 NW	21/28 NW	23/32 NW	23/32 NW
900	15/19 NW	12/16 NW	12/16 W	11/15 W	11/15 W	12/16 NW	14/19 NW	16/21 NW	16/22 NW
600	7/12 W	7/11 W	7/12 W	6/11 W	7/12 W	7/11 W	7/12 NW	7/12 W	8/14 W
300	3/9 W	5/10 W	4/10 W	4/10 SW	4/10 SW	3/8 W	5/12 NW	4/11 NW	5/13 NW
Glen	5/17 W	4/15 W	5/15 W	5/15 W	5/14 W	4/14 NW	5/15 NW	5/17 W	5/17 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	-8/-17	-8/-17	-9/-18	-9/-18	-8/-16	-7/-16	-7/-16	-8/-17	-8/-17
900	-5/-12	-5/-12	-6/-13	-6/-13	-5/-11	-4/-10	-4/-11	-5/-12	-5/-12
600	-3/-7	-4/-8	-4/-9	-4/-8	-3/-7	-2/-6	-2/-6	-3/-7	-2/-7
300	-1/-4	-2/-5	-3/-5	-3/-5	-1/-4	-1/-3	-1/-4	-1/-4	-1/-4
Glen	-1/-5	-2/-6	-2/-6	-2/-6	-0/-4	-1/-4	-0/-4	-1/-5	-0/-5
Freezing Level*	200m	100m	00m	00m	100m	200m	200m	200m	200m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Best of the limited shelter likely across south facing aspects of the Cairngorms through morning. Glen temperatures generally closer to minus 4 Celsius at first.

Forecast for Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Weather: The morning is likely to bring a spell of significant snowfall across the Cairngorms, and to a lesser but uncertain extent the western ranges. Snow will turn to rain at low levels through the morning adding to the risk of severe chill. Scattered showers, wintry above 500m, will continue through afternoon and evening. Best of the shelter in the west.

Maximum wind: North or NW 20-25 gusting 35mph, easing through evening. Closer to 50mph across highest summits.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 60% west, 20% east. Cloud will be extensive above 300-500m across the Cairngorms, but much more broken further west and generally confined to 600m and above.

Visibility: Heavy snow will bring whiteout conditions in the east, especially through morning. Some reasonable views likely across the more sheltered west.

Temperature: **Glens:** Around freezing, rising to 2 or 3 C briefly.
At 800m: Minus 4 C.
Freezing level: 300m rising 600m.

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